

GHSP NEWS

23
fatalities

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Sticker Shock

By Gwen Hagenbarth, Math Instructor/Student Dean
Woodstock Union High School

Police and adult advisors joined the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), and the Spectrum Teen Center (Spectrum) in implementing Sticker Shock. These combined forces raised awareness in their community on underage drinking and its consequences by placing stickers on alcoholic beverages and putting up posters.



WUHS SADD & Spectrum Teen Board Members prepare for "Sticker Shock"

Students traveled to local stores that sell alcohol, stores include Bridgewater General Store, Barnard General Store, the Liquor Store, Cumberland Farms, Maplefields, and Macs Woodstock Market. These stickers display warnings such as "distributing alcohol to minors can leave you with a \$10,000 fine and 5 years in jail" etc. The teens designed both the stickers and posters displayed. Students felt it was impossible and to time consuming to place stickers on all the alcohol for sale, so they focused on beer sold in 12 packs or larger quantities. "Sticker Shock is important because teens are dying every week from overdosing on alcohol. Most of these teens get alcohol from adults," said Stephanie

(cont. on pg. 3)

Click It or Ticket Campaign Begins

By Betsy Ross, Public Information Officer, GHSP



L to R: Moderator, Paco Aumand, Director of Criminal Justice Ctr., Lt. John Flannigan, VSP, VT Voltage Soccer Team players, Vermont Teen Leadership Safety Program - students from Hazen High School, Youth Safety Program Coordinator Larry McLiverty, Commissioner Robert Ide, DMV, Ted Minall, NHTSA's LEL Consultant, and Director Glenn Button, DMV.

Kickoff for the national *Click It or Ticket* May Mobilization was held May 24th, 2010 in South Burlington.

Partners participating with Governor's Highway Safety press conference included police departments from: Burlington, S. Burlington, Colchester, Hinesburg, Shelburne, St. Albans, Chittenden County Sheriffs, UVM police, Vermont State Police, and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Throughout Vermont, law enforcement agencies have joined forces day and night for an enforcement blitz that delivers the message *Click It or Ticket*.

The primary audience continues to be men ages 18 to 34, which research shows are less likely to buckle up.

The pre-seat belt survey was 86.1%, view next month's issue for post-survey results. ■

Vermont Fatalities to Date

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Average
Jan	8	6	5	2	9	6.33
Feb	5	8	8	1	1	4.6
March	12	3	3	3	3	5.25
April	5	7	8	5	4	6.25
May	13	5	7	9	6	8.3
June	9	4	12	11		9
July	8	7	7	4		6.25
Aug	5	10	3	11		7.25
Sept	9	4	7	6		6.5
Oct	6	2	7	3		4.5
Nov	2	6	2	7		4.25
Dec	5	4	4	12		6.25
Total	87	66	73	74	23	

GHSP News

5 Park Row, Waterbury, VT 05671-3201
802.241.5511 802.241.5558 fax
www.vthighwaysafety.com

To submit photos and articles to:
ghsp@dps.state.vt.us

This Month's Legal Case Complaints & Findings

By Stuart Schurr, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor

FAILING TO INDICATE INTENTION TO TURN BEFORE REACHING INTERSECTION PROVIDED SUFFICIENT GROUNDS TO JUSTIFY STOP OF VEHICLE, EVEN THOUGH COURT URGED LEGISLATURE TO NARROW THE OPERATION OF THE STATUTE "WITHIN MORE REASONABLE LIMITS"

In State v. Bridgette Fletcher, 2010 VT 27, the Vermont Supreme Court affirmed the Addison District Court's denial of Defendant's motions to suppress and to dismiss. Specifically, Defendant contended that the law enforcement officer lacked reasonable suspicion to justify the traffic stop.

Shortly before midnight, a state trooper observed Defendant's vehicle approach a stop sign and stop completely. Defendant then put on her right turn signal and made the turn. The trooper followed Defendant's vehicle and observed as she approached a second stop sign. After stopping completely, Defendant again put on her turn signal and made a left turn. After Defendant approached a third stop sign, came to a complete stop and put on her turn signal, the trooper pulled Defendant over for failing to continuously signal her intention to turn at least one hundred feet prior to turning, as required by 23 V.S.A. § 1064(d).

Upon reaching Defendant's car, the trooper asked Defendant for her license, registration, and proof of insurance. When Defendant indicated that she did not have any of those items, the trooper asked Defendant for her name. Defendant gave the trooper a false name and one which the officer recognized as belonging to an individual involved in past drug activity. When the officer observed Defendant pushing a purse under the car seat with her legs and acting nervously, he informed Defendant that he had a narcotics canine in his cruiser and that the canine would be doing an "exterior sniff" of her vehicle. After the dog completed its sniff, which lasted less than five minutes, Defendant agreed to the trooper's request for a warrantless search of her vehicle and her person. The search revealed drug paraphernalia, as well as Defendant's driver's license indicating her proper name.

Section 1064(d) provides that "[a] signal of intention to turn left or right when required shall be given continuously during not less than the last 100 feet traveled by the vehicle before turning." Defendant argued that the words "when required" suggest that the use of the signal is not mandatory in all instances, but only when traffic conditions are such that use of the signal is appropriate. The Court disagreed, holding that "when required" refers to the language in §§1064(a) and 1065, which require the use of a signal before changing direction.

Although the Court upheld the application of § 1064(d) in this case, it agreed with Defendant that the statute "goes well beyond the safety concerns that it purports to implement and is constantly violated, even by safety-conscious drivers." Further, the Court noted, "The statute precludes a motorist from turning at any intersection without knowing well in advance the direction he or she will go." As such, the Court urged the Legislature to "reexamine the statute and narrow its operation within more reasonable limits." ■

Governor Douglas Signs Texting While Driving and Seat Belt Bill - By Betsy Ross, Public Information Officer, GHSP

Governor Douglas signed into law bill S.280 prohibiting texting while driving for ALL drivers, and prohibits operators under the age of 18 from using other "portable electronic devices". The law effective immediately imposes a \$100 penalty for the first violation, and a \$250 penalty for repeat violations that occur within a two-year period. After a single text violation, teens can lose their learner's permit or junior operator license for 30 days.

The signing was held at Montpelier High School during a Turn Off Texting demonstration lead by DMV. Students received the opportunity to drive a golf cart through a cone course while text messaging, demonstrating the risks of texting while driving. Students, teachers, law enforcement officers, and legislators rallied to support the signing of the bill. Vermont now joins 25 other states that have also banned texting while driving.

For more information, visit the turnofftexting.com ■



Governor Jim Douglas signs S.280 into law.

Ignition Interlock is now the Law in Vermont

By Norman James, Project RoadSafe - Vermont Department of Labor

Governor Jim Douglas signed S.103 into law. This bill originated in the Senate calling for an in-depth study of the ignition interlock system and process. The House amended the bill to set up a system whereby a person convicted of a DUI offense may obtain a Restricted Drivers' License (RDL) to operate a motor vehicle with a breathalyzer installed which would be wired directly to the ignition.

The motor vehicle would not be able to start if the breathalyzer records a BAC of more than .02. The device would be purchased, installed and maintained by the offender. Federal regulations automatically disqualify a CDL holder convicted of DUI from this program.

The legislation stipulates that special rules will be promulgated as well as studies of the idea

of creating a fund to give indigent persons an incentive use of the interlock devices, how the devices should be coordinated with GPS systems, automated voice recognition telephone equipment, and any other issues that may be deemed relevant to interlock use.

Reports will be filed with the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and Transportation by January 15, 2011.

A special pilot project will also be initiated from January 1, 2011 to July 1, 2011, which is effective date of the DRL program.

A report on the effectiveness of this program will be filed with the Legislature by January 15, 2013. ■



Click It or Ticket Campaign
May 24, 2010 – June 6, 2010

Drama in Wells River – Staged “Crash” Depicts Danger of Texting at the Wheel

By Kerry Trotter, Valley News Staff Writer

Wells River -- The sound of a mother's wailing was clearly audible over the piercing whine of emergency vehicle sirens.

“You killed my son!” Tracy Puffer sobbed while a forlorn-looking teenage boy stared at the ground. Puffer's 12-year-old son, Mark, was slumped in the front seat of a nearby red Saab, a white sheet covering his body. “You killed him!”

The previously fidgety group of Blue Mountain Union School students who watched the chaos fell momentarily silent.

Ninth-grader Hannah Whitaker's whisper broke the quiet: “She's a really good actor.”

Puffer indeed stole the show -- the show being the elaborate and realistic mock car crash and emergency response that took place in the school's parking lot yesterday, orchestrated by 18-year-old Jamie Eastman for his Senior Exit Project.

The staged scenario began immediately after junior Travis Leach's vehicle “collided” with Puffer's vehicle. Leach's character had been sending a text message while driving and was subsequently charged with careless and negligent operation, death resulting for “injuring” his two passengers and “killing” Mark Puffer.

“You might think it's small,” Eastman said while addressing the crowd of fifth- through 12th-graders about the dangers of texting while driving. “Big consequences can happen.”

Eastman enlisted the help of Puffer, a teacher at the school, her son (who is very much alive), several friends, Vermont State Police, Wells River Fire Department, Ricker Funeral Home, Vermont's assistant medical examiner and a handful of other local first responders and safety professionals to breathe life into his project. Dozens responded to the mock call, extricating victims from the cars, consoling Puffer, investigating the accident, and performing an arrest.

The only element that could have upstaged Puffer's performance and heightened the drama was the scheduled landing of the DHART helicopter on the school's baseball field. Minutes before the hour-long presentation was slated to start, Eastman got word that DHART would not be making the touch-down he had arranged.

“Poor Jamie,” said Lisa Eastman, Jamie's mother, watching the helicopter roar overhead, doing a conciliatory fly-over on its way elsewhere. “They're on a real call, so they can't stop.”

(cont. on pg.4)



During a mock car crash at Blue Mountain High School, teacher Tracy Puffer falls to the ground, surrounded by EMTs and Orange County Sheriff's Sgt. Sam Lambert, left, after learning that her son, also performing in the event, had been pronounced dead at the scene. (Valley News — James M. Patterson)

Vermont Victims Impact Panel by Carol Rose, Vermont Safety Education Center

Members of the Vermont Victims Impact Panel attended the Vermont Victims Impact Panel Program (VVIIP) Appreciation Luncheon on Saturday, May 22 at the Three Stallion Inn in Randolph. Department of Corrections Victim Services' VVIIP and Vermont Safety Education Center (VSEC), hosted this event.

Members of the panel were given an overview of this year's legislative passage of S.103, the Ignition Interlock Bill by Ariel Brugger, Director of VVIIP. Carol Rose of VSEC shared information about the passage of S.280, the new Texting Law. She also presented the new updated DUI materials available to panelists for speaking engagements. Amy Holloway, of DOC Victim Services also shared appreciation for the work the panel does.

Volunteers bravely share their stories of how someone else's poor choice to drink and then drive affected their lives. Some are survivors dealing with both the physical and emotional scars and others continue to grieve the loss of a loved one to this preventable tragedy.

This year VVIIP has presented to approximately 1200 DUI offenders. They also responded to many requests from high schools across the state, sharing their stories with approximately 1300 students. Many panelists are still responding to requests for this busy prom and graduation season.

For more information regarding the Vermont Victim's Impact Panel Program contact:

Ariel Brugger
888-810-1847
vvipp@myfairpoint.net
[http:// www.vtsafety.org/viphtm](http://www.vtsafety.org/viphtm)

Please mark your calendars for the:

20th Red Ribbon Tree Anniversary Ceremony
Thursday, December 2, 2010
4:00 pm at the State House



Vermont Victims Impact Panel

Sticker Shock (cont. from pg. 1)

Stanglin, SADD President. Many Spectrum members agree with Stanglin, and feel that the adults that are contributing to the problems need to take some responsibility and realize that they are breaking the law.

Spectrum and SADD would like to thank Nina Salvatore for her support in poster making. A thanks also goes out to OCP (Ottauquechee Community Partnership), and Anything Printed for their support and sponsorship of SADD and Spectrum's initiative in preventing underage drinking.

For both of these groups, this is only the beginning of the fight against underage drinking. SADD and Spectrum members will continue to get the message out to their peers and the adults in their communities because everyone's life is that important to these teenagers.

Drama in Wells River *(cont. from pg. 3)*

While other seniors have planned projects slightly less grand in scope, Eastman's ambitious display surprised no one who knew him well.

"He's got about 10 hats that he wears," said Jeff Morin, chief of the Wells River Fire Department. "The boy is definitely busy."

Eastman joined the Wells River Fire ranks as a junior firefighter at 14. At 16, he went full time. He's a paramedic in Vermont and New Hampshire, and is one of three finalists in the running for Students Against Destructive Decisions' Student of The Year.

Producers from the *Oprah Winfrey Show* contacted Eastman yesterday morning about making an appearance on the show. After the students cleared out and the firefighters had swept up the last of the Saab's broken windshield, Eastman was still awaiting an answer on whether he would be heading to Boston this morning for the video interview.

"I'm very passionate about this project," Eastman said of driver awareness. "This is me in a nutshell."

Students walked away yesterday with a renewed appreciation for the inherent dangers of diversions behind the wheel.

"This is definitely a wake-up call for a lot of people here at the school," said sophomore Lydia Robinson.

"A lot of people are impacted by this," said her classmate Rachel Wedge. "It makes you think about a lot."

"That wasn't acting," said Puffer, an elementary special education teacher, from her office. "That felt way more real than anything I ever want to experience."

Mission accomplished for Eastman, who is headed to University of Vermont in the fall. Now here's hoping for a good grade.

The Associated Press contributed reporting to this story (published April 30, 2010). Kerry Trotter can be reached at ktrotter@vnews.com or 603-727-3305 ■

Upcoming Events

May 24 – June 6	Click It or Ticket – National Mobilization
June 8	Vermont Law Enforcement Challenge Luncheon
June 20 – July 4	Fourth of July – Vermont Mobilization Impaired Driving Campaign
Aug. 20 – Sept. 6	National Mobilization – Impaired Driving
Sept. 1-2	NHTSA Training in VT for Safe Communities Programs
Sept. 11-17	National Seat Check Saturday & CPS Week

For other activities and information, please visit our website; please note we are under construction.

www.vthighwaysafety.com

Crash Data Reporting Tip of the Month by Mary Spicer, AOT

The MAP feature in Web Crash brings you to Google maps and allows you to check your GPS coordinates. If the coordinates input into Web Crash do not correlate to the described crash location, you can move the "pin" on the map to the correct location, and automatically update/populate the new coordinates back into the Web Crash form. (Please call Crash Help Line at 1-888-374-3011 if you wish to get assistance with the MAP feature.)

MAP can also be used as a tool to get GPS coordinates if you did not get them by other means when in the field. The best use of MAP in this manner is for intersection crashes or other areas where you have **well defined reference points** from which to use. (i.e. other intersecting roads.) Using MAP to get GPS coordinates on a long stretch of highway with no geographic reference point is not encouraged. In this situation, the coordinates are best obtained in the field. However, there is a feature within Google MAP called "Satellite". If you click on this feature, you will get the satellite image of the area if the image is available. (Not all highways have satellite images.) The satellite image looks as if you were in a plane

looking down onto the area of highway. You can zoom into the area to get a close up picture of your area of concern. Some of these images are very clear, and you can be very successful in moving the "pin" to the location of your crash, and in turn get a reliable GPS reading. This reading can then be automatically populated back into your Web Crash report.

GPS data is very important for those of us at VTTrans as well as other agencies, both state and local. VTTrans uses the data to locate high crash locations. VTTrans safety folks attempt to determine underlying contributing factors and in turn attempt to identify engineering solutions to those problem areas. So accurate and dependable GPS, and location information is of the utmost importance.

If you have any questions or assistance with Web Crash, please 1-888-374-3011 or email AOT-CrashRequests@state.vt.us.

Drive Safe! ■

Child Passenger Safety Summer Schedule

There's nothing more important than keeping our children safe. Although every year children are injured or killed in car crashes, proper use of child safety seats can help keep our children safe. As a parent, you may find it difficult to sort out conflicting or confusing car safety seat information as your child develops and grows. For free safety seat checks visit one of the locations below. For more information log on to: www.BeSeatSmart.com or call 1-888-VMT-SEAT (868-7328)

June 11	Williston Fire Station - Williston	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
June 12	University Mall - Burlington	10:00 am - 1:00 pm
June 19	Northgate Plaza - Morrisville	10:00 am - 1:00 pm
June 26	Price Chopper- Bennington	10:00 am - 1:00 pm
July 10	Burlington Fire Station – Burlington	10:00 am - 1:00 pm
July 24	Formula Ford – Montpelier	10:00 am - 1:00 pm